

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1-13 (canceled)

14. (new) A method of providing search results from a search of candidate resumes, said method comprising the machine-implemented steps of:

- identifying a first passage in a job description that includes a first trigger phrase from a first set of predefined trigger phrases, wherein said first set of predefined trigger phrases is associated with a first type of criterion;
- extracting a first criterion from the first passage, wherein said first criterion is associated with the first type of criterion;
- identifying a second passage in the job description that includes a second trigger phrase from a second set of predefined trigger phrases, wherein said second set of predefined trigger phrases is associated with a second type of criterion;
- extracting a second criterion from the second passage, wherein said second criterion is associated with the second type of criterion;
- searching a candidate resume for said first and second criterions;
- if said first criterion is found in the candidate resume, then including said candidate resume in the search results; and
- if said first criterion is not found in the candidate resume, and the second criterion is found in the candidate resume, then omitting the candidate resume from the search results.

15. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein said candidate resume is a first candidate resume, further comprising the steps of:

- searching a second candidate resume for said first and second criterions;
- if said first criterion is found in both the first and the second candidate resumes, and said second criterion is found in the first candidate resume and not found in the second candidate resume, then listing the first candidate resume in a first portion of the search results and listing the second candidate resume in a second portion of the search results.

1 16. (new) The method of claim 15, wherein said first portion is listed in the search results  
2 above said second portion.

1 17. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein said first type of criterion is a required type  
2 and said second type of criterion is an optional type.

1 18. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein the first set of predefined trigger phrases  
2 includes phrases selected from the group of phrases consisting of “require”, “requires”,  
3 “requirement”, “compulsory”, “crucial”, “essential”, “imperative”, “must”, “mandatory”,  
4 “vital”, “imperative”, “necessary”, “qualification”, “prerequisite”, “key criteria”, “is key”, “got  
5 to”, “has to”, “have to” and “key skill”; and  
6 the second set of predefined trigger phrases includes phrases selected from the group of  
7 phrases consisting of “optional”, “desired”, and “preferred”.

1 19. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of identifying a first passage in the job  
2 description that includes a first trigger phrase comprises identifying a clause of a sentence in the  
3 job description that contains a trigger phrase selected from the first set of trigger phrases; and  
4 the step of extracting a first criterion from the first passage comprises extracting a  
5 portion of the identified clause that does not contain the first trigger phrase.

1 20. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of identifying a first passage in the job  
2 description that includes a first trigger phrase comprises identifying in the job description a  
3 trigger phrase from the first set of trigger phrases followed by either a colon or a hyphen; and  
4 the step of extracting a first criterion from the first passage comprises extracting the  
5 sentence that follows the colon or hyphen that follows the first trigger phrase in the job  
6 description.

1 21. (new) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of extracting a first criterion from the  
2 first passage further comprises validating the first criterion; and  
3 the step of searching a candidate resume for said first and second criterions comprises  
4 searching a candidate resume for said first and second valid criterions.

1 22. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the step of validating the first criterion  
2 comprises:  
3 determining whether the first trigger phrase in the first passage is preceded by a negating  
4 word; and if the first trigger phrase is preceded by a negating word, then determining that the  
5 first criterion is not valid.

1 23. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of validating the first criterion  
2 comprises:  
3 determining whether the first trigger phrase in the first passage is part of a phrase from a  
4 set of nontrigger phrases; and if the first trigger phrase in the first passage is part of a phrase  
5 from a set of nontrigger phrases, then determining that the first criterion is not valid.

1 24. (new) The method of claim 14, further comprising:  
2 identifying a third passage in the job description that includes a third trigger phrase from  
3 the first set of predefined trigger phrases;  
4 extracting a third criterion from the third passage, wherein said third criterion is  
5 associated with the first type of criterion;  
6 searching a candidate resume for said first, second and third criterions;  
7 if both said first criterion and said third criterion are found in the candidate resume, then  
8 including said candidate resume in the search results; and  
9 if either said first criterion or said third criterion is not found in the candidate resume,  
10 then omitting the candidate resume from the search results.

1 25. (new) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions  
2 which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform  
3 the method recited in claim 14.

1 26. (new) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions  
2 which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform  
3 the method recited in claim 15.

1 27. (new) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions  
2 which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform  
3 the method recited in claim 16.

1 28. (new) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions  
2 which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform  
3 the method recited in claim 17.

1 29. (new) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions  
2 which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform  
3 the method recited in claim 18.

1 30. (new) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions  
2 which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform  
3 the method recited in claim 19.

1 31. (new) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions  
2 which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform  
3 the method recited in claim 20.

1 32. (new) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions  
2 which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform  
3 the method recited in claim 21.

1 33. (new) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions  
2 which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform  
3 the method recited in claim 22.

1 34. (new) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions  
2 which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform  
3 the method recited in claim 23.

- 1 35. (new) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions
- 2 which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform
- 3 the method recited in claim 24.